

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-7, 9-14, 16-20, 22-25, and 27-36 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 16 being the independent claims. Claims 3, 5, 12-14, 18-20, 25 and 28 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated April 21, 2005, claim 1 stands provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being allegedly unpatentable over claim 1 of copending Application No. 09/844,432. Claims 2-7, 9-14 and 27-31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 16, 17, 19, 22-24 and 32-36 are allowed. Claims 3, 12-14, 18, 20, 25 and 28 are objected to because of various informalities.

Nonstatutory Double Patenting Rejection

Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer over claim 1 of copending Application No. 09/844,432. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 1 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Allowable Claims and Claim Objections

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 2-7, 9-14 and 27-31. Claims 3, 12-14, 18, 20, 25 and 28 have been amended to correct the various informalities specified by the Examiner. Amended claims 18 and 20 which depend from allowed claim 16, and amended claim 25, which depends from allowed claim 23, are

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therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objections to claims 18, 20 and 25 be reconsidered and withdrawn. In view of the terminal disclaimer submitted herewith, amended claims 3, 12-14 and 28, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objections to claims 3, 12-14 and 28 be reconsidered and withdrawn

Claims 2, 4-7, 9-11, 27 and 29-31 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. In view of the terminal disclaimer submitted herewith, the objections to claims 2, 4-7, 9-11, 27 and 29-31 are now moot. Claims 2, 4-7, 9-11, 27 and 29-31 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objections to claims 2, 4-7, 9-11, 27 and 29-31 be reconsidered and withdrawn

Other Matters

Claims 5 and 19 have been amended to correct minor informalities.

Supplemental IDS of July 24, 2004

As indicated in the Office Action dated August 9, 2004, the Examiner has considered the references cited on page 2 (of 2) of the supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 24, 2002. Applicants note, however, that the Examiner did not indicate consideration of the references cited on page 1 of the same Information Disclosure Statement. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner verify consideration of the references cited on page 1 of the supplemental Information

Disclosure Statement filed on July 24, 2002 to ensure the references submitted are made of record.

Second Supplemental IDS of February 28, 2005

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner acknowledge receipt and consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement (Second Supplemental IDS) filed on February 28, 2005.

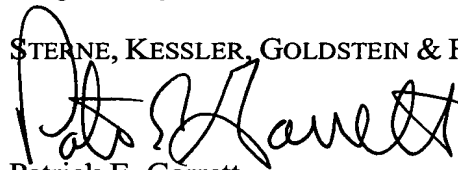
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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